

**MINUTES OF THE EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MEETING**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2008**

**Hanaford School Cafeteria**

**200 Middle Road**

**East Greenwich, RI 02818**

**ANY ITEMS CONSIDERED BY SCHOOL COMMITTEE MAY BE  
SUBJECT TO A**

**VOTE**

**7:00p.m.**

**Call to Order**

**The November School Committee meeting was called to order at 7:00p.m. in the Hanaford School Cafeteria. Members present were: Sue Cienki, Chair, Skip Day, Vice-Chair, MaryEllen Winters, Anne Palumbo, JeanAnn Guliano, and Susan Records as well as Superintendent Charles Meyers, and Director of Administration, Maryanne Crawford. Mrs. Friedemann was absent. Town Council Members, Michael Isaacs, Henry Boezi, Kim Petti, Dr. Mark Schwager, Kim Petti, Richard Buonaiuto and Michael Kiernan were also present as well as Town Manager, William Sequino.**

**2. Public Comments**

**There were no public comments.**

**3. Approval of Minutes – 10-21-08 meeting, and 9-16 and 10-7-08  
Executive Session Meetings**

**On a motion made by Mrs. Palumbo and seconded by Mr. Day, the**

**Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the October 21, September 16, and October 7, 2008 meetings with a minor change to the Executive Session minutes of September 16, 2008.**

#### **4. Recognitions**

**4.1 Steve Garneau, was recognized for winning the 2008-2009 RI Technology Education Program of Excellence Award**

**The following students were recognized for their athletic accomplishments:**

**4.2 Jeff Winters, for earning a spot on the USA Swimming's Scholastic All-American Team for 2007-2008**

**4.3 Jennifer Bannon and Dana Treat for winning 1st Team All-State for Girls' Soccer**

**4.4 Mark Feigen for winning the New England Cross Country Individual Championship, Manhattan Invitational Race F Champion, State Championship Runner-Up, and for being named All New England, All State, All Division and All Class**

**4.5 Nick Ross, Woods Trail Run Invitational Champion, 3rd place at New England Championship Race, and 1st Team All New England, All State, All Division, and All Class**

**4.6 Matthew Gowell, New England Singlehanded Championship in the Laser, and Singlehanded Championship for the Cressy Trophy,**

#### **5. Joint Discussion with Town Council on Projected Revenue and Expenditures and New Uniform Chart of Accounts**

**Mr. Sequino noted that the tax cap levy for the Town is 4  $\frac{3}{4}$ % for this year. He noted that because of the economy, revenues for the town are not the same. He added that the general revenue sharing is**

**\$150,000 for the town. Kathleen Raposa, Town Finance Director, stated that as of June 30, 2008, the revenue decrease is \$625,000. The areas of decrease are licensing fees, and police department licensing and fees. She added that the Town will be undergoing a revaluation, but a major concern is that there has been a cut in the assessed value of real estate. Mr. Meyers stated that if the schools submit a 2.67% budget increase, big ticket items in the budget would reach that figure quickly. Mr. Isaacs stated that the Town will continue to look at shared services and consolidation. He would like Town Council and School Committee to think about contingency plans if they are going to see cuts in the current budget. Mr. Isaacs also stated that as far as the consolidation discussion with North Kingstown, he would like to see the School Committees from both towns sit in on the discussions.**

**Kathleen Raposa, Finance Director, stated that by July 1, 2009, the implementation of a new Uniform Chart of Accounts needs to be completed. She added that it is mandatory to convert at least a year's worth of history. Mr. Meyers stated that he will meet with Munis about the conversion since we don't want to commit unnecessary resources to this project. Ms. Raposa stated that we don't know at this time how many years will be converted. Mrs. Records stated that three years are needed to do an analytical report.**

## **10. Update on Oversight and Procedures for Athletic Fields Committee**

**Mr. Meyers stated that a meeting was held with the Town Council when the bid was awarded. He noted that Council President Isaacs wanted a fields construction committee put into place, which would be a permanent committee. This committee will report to the Town Council and School Committee and follow all guidelines under the Open Meetings Act. He also noted that this committee will not have the authority to enter into contracts. He added that the existing fields committee will be in place for advice. It was also noted that any change order in excess of \$10,000 must be approved by School Committee and Town Council. On a question by Councilor Schwager, it was stated that the group should decide who will take leadership of this new committee. A sentence should be put into the charge that at the convening of the first meeting, the committee should elect a chair and co-chair. These procedures will be approved subject to the Town Council approving this at their meeting on December 15, 2008. Dr. Schwager would like to delineate the chair's responsibilities. Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Palumbo to approve the suggested changes subject to approval of the Town Council. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **6. Presentation from Shape-Up RI**

**This item was tabled and will be brought to the Administrative Council at the meeting on December 9th. Mrs. Palumbo stated that the Wellness Committee voted on this program and it is for adults.**

## **7. New Business**

### **7.1 Extension of Parental Leave**

**7.1.1 On a motion made by Mr. Day and seconded by Mrs. Palumbo, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the extension of parental leave for Erin Osman, Art Teacher at Hanaford and Eldredge Schools, from January 26, 2009 to June 18, 2009. It was noted that this extension is for one time only.**

## **8. Charge for Teacher Contract Negotiations Advisory Committee**

**Mrs. Guliano made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to approve the charge for the Teacher Contract Negotiations Advisory Committee. Mr. Meyers stated that feedback from this committee is needed early and he added that Garrett Neaves is taking a leadership role. Mr. Neaves gave the committee a copy of the teacher contract for review and they will come back with recommendations. Mrs. Cienki thought that this committee was going to construct a model contract. Mrs. Guliano would rather have them make recommendations since they are strictly advisory. On the motion to approve the charge for this new advisory committee, Mrs. Cienki, Mrs. Winters and Mrs. Guliano voted yes, and Mr. Day, Mrs. Palumbo and Mrs. Records voted no. The motion failed.**

## **9. Technology Development: New Lease, Security, “Alert Now,” “First Class.”**

**Mr. Nettik, the Technology Director, stated that since we are in the third and final year of our copy machine lease, he would like to include a new lease for the next fiscal year. He would also like to upgrade the language labs. Mr. Meyers stated that this forces us to**

look three years ahead. Mr. Nettik stated that five years ago our internal networking components were horrible. Then we purchased a new phone system which gave us the ability to improve our infrastructure. He is working with the town to increase our band width. He would like us to be able to run phone lines from the new Cole Middle School to Hanaford School. Mr. Nettik stated that AESOP, the substitute caller system, has been a great success. He also noted that the automated caller system for different alerts to parents and staff will be up and running soon. He added that First Class, the new email system, is up and ready to go and we will get staff members trained soon. He noted that all documents will reside in a server but we can still attach documents to email. He also noted that the School Committee will be able to have First Class accounts.

Donna Hayes, Librarian at Frenchtown School, stated that the problem is in-time teaching. She noted that we need to allow teachers within a school the ability to unblock sites. Ms. Hayes stated that technology has improved dramatically. She also feels that we need a technology committee again. Mr. Meyers stated that there is no money but this was a volunteer committee in the past. Mr. Nettik would like to have this committee reinstated. He also noted that there is a plan to train staff for First Class during the school's Superintendent's meetings. Mrs. Cienki stated that she would like to see iParent up and running two weeks into the school year. Mr. Nettik responded that it is a staffing issue since it takes time to set up grade books. Mr. Meyers stated that the School Committee can give teachers a policy as to when they should go on and set up their

grades.

#### **11. School Committee Meeting Dates for 2009**

On a motion made by Mr. Day and seconded by Mrs. Palumbo, the committee voted unanimously to approve the School Committee meeting dates for 2009.

315

#### **12. Second Reading and Vote on Policy against Teen Dating Violence, Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment**

Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Palumbo to approve the above policy. The motion passed unanimously. There was a question of adding offensive dancing. Attorney Oliverio asked the Committee if they wished to get that specific with the policy. He added that this type of dancing could be a form of artistic expression for students. He feels that this can be policed by administrators. Mrs.

Nota-Masse, High School Principal, stated that it is not widespread and feels it is a matter of policing the dances. Mrs. Palumbo and the Wellness Committee were thanked for putting this policy together.

#### **13. Out-of-State Field Trip to Boston Museum of Science on December 16, 2008 for Hanaford grade five students**

Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Palumbo to approve the trip to Boston. It was noted that more chaperones are needed. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **14. School Committee Concerns**

**Mrs. Guliano asked about having financial competency in the high school curriculum. It was noted that a Math and Finance class is being talked about.**

**Mrs. Winters asked about the scheduling committee. Mrs. Nota-Masse stated that three meetings were held and the removal of study halls will require a staffing increase. She noted that the scheduling system builds in study halls by design. It was noted that the new high school regulations required that students have 330 minutes of instruction every day and study halls don't count as instruction.**

**Mrs. Palumbo stated that the Wellness Committee met to approve the Shape-Up RI program. Annie Stoehr was present at the Wellness meeting and stated that the high school lunch count has increased. Mrs. Palumbo noted that Aramark and Kids First have been very receptive to the students' concerns about lunches. Mrs. Palumbo noted that there are two machines in the high school that Kids First has asked to be removed, one for ice cream and another for vitamin water and other drinks. She noted that the Student Council owns them.**

**15. On a motion made by Mr. Day and seconded by Mrs. Palumbo, the Committee, being polled individually, voted unanimously to go into Executive Session under R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 for Custodian Contract Negotiations, and the Superintendent's Evaluation.**

**The Committee noted that it was an honor to have Mrs. Cienki as their Chair.**



**Respectfully submitted,**

**Virginia Giuliani**

**Secretary**